



# **Financial Attorney Services** **– protection for you**



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We are here to help people thrive

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## What is an enduring power of attorney?

An enduring power of attorney is a formal instrument by which one person empowers another person or entity to act on their behalf for certain legal and financial purposes when they lose capacity to manage their own affairs.

An enduring power of attorney appointing Australian Unity Trustees will allow us to manage your affairs on your behalf once you lose capacity.

## Why do you need to appoint a financial attorney before you need one?

In order for Australian Unity Trustees to act on your behalf once you lose capacity, you must execute an enduring power of attorney whilst you have capacity.

Execution of an enduring power of attorney is an important consideration for everyone. Unfortunately we are unable to anticipate sudden illness or incapacity. Unless a financial attorney appointed pursuant to an enduring power of attorney is already in place, no one is appointed legally to act on your behalf in relation to your legal and financial affairs.

You may need bills paid or investments managed in a timely manner. If you do not have an appointed financial attorney, delays may cost you financially at a time when you need the most protection and peace of mind.

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You can choose an individual or an organisation, like Australian Unity Trustees, that you trust

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## Who can be appointed as your financial attorney?

Acting as a financial attorney involves significant responsibility, time and expertise. Appointing a trustee company such as Australian Unity Trustees to act as your financial attorney can provide you with peace of mind, as we will always act in your best interests and ensure your assets are protected and managed in line with your needs and wishes.

During the Estate Planning process it is also important to appoint someone to make decisions with regard to your health, medical treatment and lifestyle when you are not able to do so. Our Estate Planning team can work with you to ensure all required documentation is in place.

Your financial attorney may have full authority to deal with your legal and financial affairs. So you should appoint someone you trust.

Many people appoint a close family member or friend, without realising the extent of the burden they are placing on that person.

It is possible that the person may not always have the time or expertise to act in your best interests, no matter how well intentioned they are.

For this reason, many people choose instead to appoint a trustee company such as Australian Unity Trustees to act as their financial attorney.

If your appointed attorney requires some assistance and guidance in the performing of their role, Australian Unity Trustees can help them facilitate the best outcomes for you.

## What about lifestyle and medical decisions?

You may want someone to make decisions on your health, medical treatment and living arrangements.

Each state has different legislation and terminology for this role but it is generally either called a “guardian”, an “attorney for personal matters” or a “substituted decision maker”.

They only operate if you have lost capacity and must act in your best interests.

## We will ensure you have protection and peace of mind if you lose capacity through illness or accident

Our experience and focus, combined with our 175 year heritage of community service and prudent financial advice, means we are uniquely placed to offer you high quality attorney services.

Should you choose to appoint us as your financial attorney you can rest assured we will always act in your best interests.

Since 1840 we have always placed our clients' best interests above anything else. That is the commitment we offer you as your financial attorney – a commitment backed by the full resources of our organisation, one of Australia's leading financial services groups.

As a result, you can be assured of the most appropriate financial assistance when you need it the most. You can have peace of mind that we will manage and protect your financial affairs when you are no longer able to do so.

When our Estate Planning team takes your instructions for your enduring power of attorney, they will take the time to understand you – your situation, your needs and wishes. Working side by side, we will develop a personalised document, which will allow your attorney to protect and manage your financial affairs in line with your needs and wishes.

As your financial attorney, Australian Unity Trustees will liaise with your family and circle of support, as appropriate, to ensure they understand your wishes, our role as your attorney and to answer any questions they may have.

It's a service based on experience and strong empathy for you and your family.

After all, your financial wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

## **What can a financial attorney do on your behalf?**

A financial attorney can help you manage your affairs by:

- ✔ Collecting and responding to your mail
- ✔ Collecting your income
- ✔ Dealing with banks and institutions like Centrelink
- ✔ Managing your bills
- ✔ Preparing and managing your budget
- ✔ Managing your investments
- ✔ Managing and maintaining your property
- ✔ Completing your tax returns

## We offer an extensive array of personalised services to protect your assets, respect your wishes and ensure your best interests are always placed above anything else

### Australian Unity Trustees

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#### Estate Administration



We provide extensive estate administration services, as either the appointed executor in a will or where the appointed executor does not wish or is unable to act. Our service includes:

- Interpreting the will
- Determining beneficiary entitlements
- Obtaining probate
- Transferring assets and paying debt
- Preparing tax returns
- Preparing financial statements

- Assisting with funeral payments
- Obtaining letters of administration

#### Financial Attorney



We can act as your financial attorney or assist you if you have been appointed to that role:

- If appointed as your financial attorney, we will act in an independent capacity to ensure your best interests are the paramount consideration of financial and legal decisions.
- If you have been appointed as a financial attorney, we can assist you with the tasks you are unable to do, and provide legal, financial and taxation advice about how to undertake your role to provide the right outcomes.

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## Financial & Legal Administration



If we have been appointed as your Administrator, we can help you:

- Develop a budget
- Protect all assets belonging to you including the review of your insurance policies
- Identify and collect all income due to you
- Manage any legal issues

## Trust Establishment & Administration



We can establish and manage trusts to help protect assets and legacies now and into the future, such as:

- Community and Native Title Trusts
- Family trusts
- Testamentary trusts
- Minor's trusts
- Superannuation proceeds trusts
- Special disability trusts
- Charitable trusts

## Philanthropy



We can help you create a meaningful philanthropic legacy by developing a charitable structure tailored to your individual circumstances, philanthropic objectives and wishes.

It may be:

- Establishing your charitable foundation during your lifetime (there may be tax advantages in doing this)
- Establishing your foundation within your Estate Planning strategy, which is created on your passing
- Establishing a combination of both



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Long before there was any formal welfare system, members relied on the support and benefits of mutual organisations

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## A proud history

With more than 175 years of helping our members thrive, Australian Unity is proud to continue supporting the lives of a million Australians.

We trace our roots back to December 7, 1840—in a pub on Melbourne’s Queen Street. It was at the inaugural meeting of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows that a newspaper proprietor, a surgeon, a chief constable, a glazier and a carpenter would build the foundations of what would become Australian Unity.

Over the decades, many dozens of other friendly societies and like organisations have joined or merged with Australian Unity. The Australian Natives’ Association, Big Sky Credit Union, Lifeplan Australia Friendly Society and many others are now part of Australian Unity. We carry on the traditions that formed these organisations.

Long before there was any formal welfare system in Australia, members relied on the support and benefits of these mutual organisations.

Today, we still aim to answer the very simple question that our members have always had: how can I provide for myself and for those I love, especially in times of need?

The environment that we currently operate in is one where chronic disease is on the rise, we have an ageing population and a need to increase retirement savings.

We believe a member-based mutual organisation is the best way to look after your interests and those of the broader community.

We’re a national healthcare, financial services and independent and assisted living organisation with 7,000 employees providing services to one million Australians.

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## Our services



### Health

- Health insurance
- Overseas visitors cover
- Dental services
- Chronic disease management
- Hospital in the home



### Wealth

- Investments
- Philanthropy
- Trust and estate administration services
- Financial planning
- Investment, education and funeral bonds
- Banking and home loans
- General insurance



### Living

- Aged care and accommodation
- Personal and business insurance
- Aboriginal home care
- Disability services
- Retirement communities



**1800 87 87 83**



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